

REPORT NO.

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1. On [redacted] a Chinese Communist force of unknown strength from Yushu had crossed the route from Ch'angtu to Lhasa west of Riwoche (Neimutsi, approximately 96-30, 31-30), and were generally headed for the Namcha Barwa (95-00, 29-40) area near the Assam border.* Resistance was continuing throughout the region.
2. Riwoche is on the Ch'angtu-Lhasa road, 9 days from Ch'angtu and 20 days from Lhasa. If the reported flanking of Ch'angtu is confirmed, this need not effectively cut off the Tibetan forces from a retreat to Lhasa, for the Tibetans can travel faster than the Chinese, who will probably remain on the main roads. There is a road from Ningching (Markham, 98-30, 29-42) through Kota (95-50, 30-00) which joins the Ch'angtu-Lhasa road, and which the Tibetan forces at Ch'angtu could use as an escape route if necessary.** The trail from Yushu to Shihtu (Shobando, 95-52, 30-49) is difficult and seldom used even by Tibetans.***
3. It is estimated that there are from ten to fifteen thousand Chinese Communist troops in the Yushu-Ningching area. On [redacted] Ch'angtu, which would have known of any movement, informed Lhasa that Ch'angtu was not threatened in any way. As of [redacted] no Tibetan official in Kalimpong had information of any significant advance into Tibet. Tibetan officials in that city had recently demanded an apology from a Press Trust of India correspondent for his allegedly false reports.
4. The Communist followers of the Panchen Lama in the Kham area claim that Topgyal Pangdatsang is their puppet. He has 6,000 soldiers, who are not engaged in fighting. The local inhabitants are losing faith in him [redacted] the invaders.****

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